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# Utah Watershed Review

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Utah's Nonpoint-Source Water-Quality Newsletter

January/February 2004

## Governor's Watershed Initiative Gears Up

### Adopt-A-Waterbody Program Wants You!

In November 2003, when Utah Governor Olene S. Walker launched the Governor's Watershed Initiative, there were about 40 groups throughout the state involved in volunteer water quality improvement projects as part of the Adopt-A-Waterbody program. By November 2004 the Governor wants that number to at least double.

Adopt-A-Waterbody (AAW) is an innovative community involvement program designed to benefit Utah's water resources and be rewarding and educational for the volunteer groups involved. A partnership of three state agencies directs the program. It includes the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the Utah Department of Natural Resources, and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food. In addition, Utah State University Water Quality Extension provides local coordination and assistance for water-related education, monitoring, and restoration activities.

Adoptions can include performing water quality monitoring, picking up

trash, or planting vegetation in or near water bodies.

Just about anyone from individuals, scout troops and school groups; to businesses, non-profit organizations and government agencies can adopt.

Currently the AAW program is looking for volunteers with or without specific projects in mind to take part in a statewide watershed volunteerism day on Take Pride in Utah Day, April 17, 2004. The statewide push on April 17th kicks off a month of Take Pride in Utah projects throughout the Beehive State.

If you and your organization have a specific Adopt-A-Waterbody project in mind, please log onto the website and fill out an online application.

<http://adoptawaterbody.utah.gov> .

To volunteer as part of an existing project, email Shelly Quick, Utah Division of Water Quality, [squick@utah.gov](mailto:squick@utah.gov).

### Special Award Created For Long-term Adopt-A-Waterbody Efforts

To commemorate the 12th anniversary of the Adopt-A-Waterbody program and the Governor's Watershed initiative, which officially began November 24, 2003, special long-term commitment Adopt-A-Waterbody awards will be given to groups who have conducted a water body restoration or monitoring project at least once a year for at least five consecutive years.

Honorees this year will include the Beaver High School geography classes, who have adopted portions of the Beaver River and adjacent rangeland watershed areas since 1998. On

April 16, 2004, 150 students and about 50 adult volunteers, including members of the state's dedicated hunter program, will plant rangeland and riparian plants.

On April 14th the Utah Federation for Youth will plant willows along the banks of the Jordan River in Salt Lake City at a site they have adopted and managed continuously for seven years.

Other groups qualifying for the special award will be honored throughout the year as they complete their projects.

### Take Pride In Utah to Focus on Watersheds in April, May

Take Pride in Utah (TPIU) Month 2004 kicks off in style April 17th with volunteer projects taking place simultaneously throughout the state.

Many of this year's projects will relate to the Governor's Watershed Initiative, although other volunteer projects, such as neighborhood cleanups and painting the homes of

elderly residents will be part of TPIU celebrations in many communities.

Because many higher elevation watersheds may still be snowpacked in mid-April, most of the watershed projects taking place on Take Pride in Utah day will occur in lower elevation valleys.



*Former Utah Governor Mike Leavitt prepared for a television interview during a Take Pride in Utah project in Salt Lake City during the mid-1990s. In recent years the emphasis on Take Pride in Utah has waned somewhat. In 2004, however, current Utah Governor Olene Walker plans to again increase the focus of the program in conjunction with the Governor's Watershed Initiative.*

### Presentation Abstracts Due Soon for 2004 Utah NPS Conference

The conference planning committee for the 2004 Utah Nonpoint Source Water Quality Conference is now accepting abstracts for presentations.

This year's conference will be held at Ruby's Inn, at the entrance to Bryce Canyon National Park, September 14-16, 2004. This year's theme is "Balancing Effective Watershed Management."

## Highlights

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# Utah's Premiere Irrigation Show

*Presented by Harward Irrigation Systems*

**March 2, 2004**

**8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**Maple View Plaza**

*(940 South 2000 West - Springville)*

- Over 70 booths
- 40 educational classes
- Product demonstrations
- STEAK LUNCH provided
- Prizes & Giveaways
- Show Specials



**Harward Irrigation  
Systems**  
940 South 2000 West  
Springville, UT

**To register, call 1-800-451-3201 or 801-798-6400  
or register online at [www.sprinkler.com](http://www.sprinkler.com)**

**Pre-register by Feb. 27 to receive class training,  
booth access, t-shirt and LUNCH all for \$10.**

*(Registration at the door is \$15)*

## Irrigation Expo to be Held in March

The annual Irrigation Expo & Conference dealing with the changing process of irrigation will be held on Tuesday, March 2, 2004 at the Maple View Plaza, 940 South 2000 West, Springville, Utah. The expo and conference is an all-day event consisting of educational booths and classes from manufacturers and professionals in the irrigation industry. The expo is open to all farmers, ranchers, landscape architects, contractors, orchard professionals, golf course operators, municipalities and anyone working in the field of agricultural or turf irrigation. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.

Water is our greatest and most important natural resource. This expo is a great opportunity for water users statewide to meet together, see new products, and discuss methods of using water wisely. More than 40 different mini-classes will be held throughout the day. The topics include use of pivots, water efficiency, water/plant relationships, modern water measure-

ments, nozzle application, variable speed pumps, irrigation design, irrigation troubleshooting, business improvement, liens, and a host of other pertinent subjects.

Randall Harward, organizer of the event stated, "We are pleased to be able to bring such a comprehensive conference together for those interested in better water management and application. Those who attend will gain the latest in product information as well as technical details. Various programs for financing water improvement systems will be discussed. We will have approximately seventy booths with manufacturer's representatives on hand for information and questions."

Pre-register by February 27, 2004 to receive entry to all classes and booths, an expo t-shirt and steak lunch. Cost is \$10.00 per person (\$15.00 at the door).

For more information or to pre-register call 1-800-451-3201.

## Utah Watershed Review

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Story/idea submissions, comments and requests for additional copies should be directed to the editor: Email--  
[jackwilbur@utah.gov](mailto:jackwilbur@utah.gov).



# “After the Storm” To Air on The Weather Channel

A new half hour television special about watersheds—*After the Storm*—co-produced by The Weather Channel (TWC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will premier on TWC on Wednesday, February 4, 2004 at 8 pm and 11 pm Eastern Standard Time (EST). Additional showings are slated for Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 and 11:30 pm EST and Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 and 11:30 pm EST.

*“I encourage everyone to tune in on February 4<sup>th</sup> to learn more about the threats facing our nation’s waters from polluted runoff. After the Storm shows the connection between weather and watersheds and the importance of watershed protection. We all live in a watershed and we all have an impact on our environment.”*

*-Benjamin Grumbles, EPA’s Acting Assistant Administrator for Water*

The show highlights three case studies—Santa Monica Bay, the Mississippi River Basin/Gulf of Mexico, and New York City—where polluted runoff threatens watersheds highly valued for recreation, commercial fisheries and navigation, and drinking water. Key scientists and water quality experts, and citizens involved in local and national watershed protection efforts provide insight into the problems as well as solutions to today’s water quality challenges.

*After the Storm* also explains simple things people can do to protect their local watershed—such as picking up after one’s dog, recycling household hazardous wastes, and conserving water. After six months, EPA owns the rights to the special. At that time, the Agency intends to make *After the Storm* available to other television stations and educational organizations.



*Note: This publication was produced after the first airing of the Weather Channel special “After the Storm.” However, this program will be shown again in May and June. If you missed the February airing, check the schedule above and your local listings for those dates.*

## Upcoming Air Dates for *After the Storm*

**Wednesday, February 4, 2004**  
8 pm Eastern

**Wednesday, February 4, 2004**  
11 pm Eastern

**Sunday, May 9, 2004**  
8:30 pm Eastern

**Sunday, May 9, 2004**  
11:30 pm Eastern

**Saturday, June 26, 2004**  
8:30 pm Eastern

**Saturday, June 26, 2004**  
11:30 pm Eastern



*Viewers are encouraged to visit the EPA web site —[www.epa.gov/weatherchannel](http://www.epa.gov/weatherchannel)— for more information about what they can do, including a free brochure about stormwater pollution.*

# Centerville Water Fair a Hit

Government water experts descended on Centerville Elementary School, Centerville, UT, in early January. It was the first of several water fairs and festivals to be held this year.

Students learned everything from the water cycle, to how surface water and ground water gets polluted, to the importance of clean water to fish and other wildlife.



Above left: Ann Evans, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, holds up a plastic trout and talks about fish health and water quality to the students. Above right: students get to "pollute" and make it "rain" as they learn about how land uses impact surface water. Bottom: Barbara Allen, Utah Division of Water Resources, plays "Water Jeopardy" with students. This interactive game tests students' knowledge of water in a format that mimics the popular television game show. One can only hope the questions in this live version are not as difficult as those on TV.